

COMMON GROUND

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A NEWSLETTER FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING IN THE BERKSHIRE REGION

TOWN OF BECKET AWARDED 2011 CDBG GRANT

Congratulations to the Town of Becket, which was awarded a \$900,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in July. BRPC assisted the Town with the grant application, which focused on priorities identified in its community development strategy with the help of a strong community involvement process, essential to the success of the application. The grant will fund three targeted projects, including street and sidewalk improvements in North Becket Village, housing rehabilitation throughout the Town and a study in preparation for affordable senior housing.

Becket was among 41 cities and towns across the Commonwealth awarded the grant by MA Department of Housing and Community Development. Congratulations go out to the Town of Adams, the City of Pittsfield and the City of North Adams, which are also slated to receive a portion of the \$28 million in federal CDBG intended to support housing, infrastructure, business development and public services projects.

STAFF CONTACT: Patricia Mullins at pmullins@berkshireplanning.org or ext. 17.

DALTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RECEIVES EPA BROWNFIELDS GRANT

The Dalton Redevelopment Authority (DRA) has received a \$200,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove petroleum contaminants from the site of a former gas station and trucking yard. BRPC staff worked closely with the DRA to develop and write the successful grant application. BRPC is assisting with the management of the grant and with the future redevelopment of the site. The DRA was one of six recipients in Massachusetts to be awarded a FY11 EPA Cleanup Grant. BRPC encourages communities with suspected brown-field sites to contact us for assistance.

STAFF CONTACT: Brian Domina at bdomina@berkshireplanning.org or ext. 14.

NEW TRANSPORTATION PLANS AVAILABLE

On July 26th the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) authorized a 30 day public review and comment period for the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Unified Planning Work Program. Following the conclusion of the comment period these documents will then be presented to the MPO for adoption. Visit BRPC's website at <http://www.berkshireplanning.org> for updates and document copies.

STAFF CONTACT: Clete Kus at ckus@berkshireplanning.org or ext. 20.

FALL 2011: CHANGE IN OFFICE SCHEDULE

Beginning Monday October 3, 2011 the BRPC offices will be undergoing renovations. The staff will go to a four day work week through the end of November with the office being closed on Fridays. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we look to improve our work space!

FALL ENCHANTMENT



CENSUS 2010: HOUSEHOLDS AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Census Bureau continues to release data from the 2010 Census. This article is part of a series of articles on the Census. Previous newsletters detailed population, race, housing and age.

HOUSEHOLDS

While the population of Berkshire County has decreased since 2000, the number of households has increased slightly (85). This corresponds with a decrease in the average household size, from 2.3 to 2.2 people per house. Looking further into the household data, the percent of households that are families has dropped below 60% and the number of family households with children under 18 has dropped by 3.8%, down to 23.7% of all households. Married-couple family households have also seen a decrease of 4.1%, down to 43.9% of all households. As expected, with married-couple family households decreasing, the number of them that have children under 18 has also decreased (4.3% to 14.6%). This decrease has helped cause some of the population age problems we are having as it indicates we are not having as many children as previously. This is also indicated in that the total number of households (family and non-family) that have children under 18 has decreased to 25.9%, a drop of 3.5%. This means that only one in four households has children.

| HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE | 2000 | 2000 | 2010 | 2010 |
|---|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Total households | 56,006 | | 56,091 | |
| Family households (families) | 35,110 | 62.7% | 33,618 | 59.9% |
| With own children under 18 years | 15,393 | 27.5% | 13,271 | 23.7% |
| Married-couple family | 26,887 | 48.0% | 24,607 | 43.9% |
| With own children under 18 years | 10,553 | 18.8% | 8,181 | 14.6% |
| Female householder, no husband present | 6,156 | 11.0% | 6,448 | 11.5% |
| With own children under 18 years | 3,780 | 6.7% | 3,771 | 6.7% |
| Nonfamily households | 20,896 | 37.3% | 22,473 | 40.1% |
| Householder living alone | 17,672 | 31.6% | 18,534 | 33.0% |
| Householder 65 years and over | 7,758 | 13.9% | 7,904 | 14.1% |
| Households with individuals under 18 years | 16,443 | 29.4% | 14,507 | 25.9% |
| Households with individuals 65 years and over | 16,844 | 30.1% | 17,424 | 31.1% |
| Average household size | 2.3 | | 2.23 | |
| Average family size | 2.89 | | 2.82 | |

Not surprisingly, the number of female households with no husband present has increased, but only slightly at 0.5% to 11.5% of the total households. The number of female householders with no husband, but with children under 18 has decreased slightly. What is interesting is that in 2000, this group represented only 23% of all households with children. This has now increased to 26% due to the decrease in the total number of children in the county. What is also a concern is that the difference between married households with children and female households with no husband, but with children has decreased from around 6,700 to 4,400.

| RELATIONSHIP | 2000 | 2000 | 2010 | 2010 |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Total population | 134,953 | | 131,219 | |
| In households | 128,821 | 95.5% | 125,060 | 95.3% |
| Householder | 56,006 | 41.5% | 56,091 | 42.7% |
| Spouse | 26,887 | 19.9% | 24,607 | 18.8% |
| Child | 35,635 | 26.4% | 32,029 | 24.4% |
| Own child under 18 years | 27,726 | 20.5% | 22,994 | 17.5% |
| Other relatives | 3,828 | 2.8% | 4,529 | 3.5% |
| Under 18 years | 1,261 | 0.9% | 1,616 | 1.2% |
| Nonrelatives | 6,465 | 4.8% | 7,804 | 5.9% |
| Unmarried partner | 3,242 | 2.4% | 4,556 | 3.5% |
| In group quarters | 6,132 | 4.5% | 6,159 | 4.7% |
| Institutionalized population | 2,275 | 1.7% | 2,280 | 1.7% |
| Noninstitutionalized population | 3,857 | 2.9% | 3,879 | 3.0% |

RELATIONSHIPS

While the population has declined over the last decade, the percentage for each type of relationships within the county has remained relatively constant. Given that the children under 18 population has decreased over the last 10 years, the decrease in those numbers are expected. One area related to children that has changed significantly is the percentage of children that belong to the householders (own child), which has dropped from 78% to 72%. This would indicate that there are more households where the children do not have both of their parents living with them.

Another area with significant changes is the percent of people who are non relatives living together. This has increased by about 1,300 people or 1.1% of the entire population. It appears based on the data that unmarried partners make up that increase almost entirely.

Visit Berkshire Benchmarks (<http://www.berkshirebenchmarks.org/data>) and American Fact Finder (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>) for more information.

STAFF CONTACT: Mark Maloy at mmaloy@berkshireplanning.org or ext. 29.

THANK YOU TO OUR INTERN

Joe Donnelly, a recent Masters graduate from the University at Albany in the regional planning program has been working at the BRPC as an intern since the beginning of April. During this time, Joe has focused on collecting data for the Data Clearinghouse in the Berkshire Benchmarks program, as well as providing analysis of the data. He has also assisted to the HUD Regional Sustainability Plan. Joe will continue to work at the BRPC until the end of September. We want to thank Joe for his work during his time at the Commission and wish him good luck in his future endeavors!

SUSTAINABLE BERKSHIRES: VISION WORKSHOP SUMMARY

A subregional workshop series was held in July 2011 officially launching the Sustainable Berkshires regional planning process by engaging the community in a discussion about priorities and a common vision for the region's future. A total of 118 people participated in the 2-hour Vision Workshops which included an interactive open house, presentation with Q&A, and small group vision discussion. The workshop series kicks off the three-year regional planning process funded through a HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant award to BRPC.

Major themes that emerged through the visioning discussion were:

- Focus on green business development, including green technology research and manufacturing, agriculture, and greening business practices
- Strengthen and grow from within, raise expectations, opportunities, and quality of life for the whole
- Keep rural areas rural and focus development in existing city and village centers
- Package, connect, and expand what we have – the necessary ingredients are already here
- Recognize the multiple benefits of our rich natural resources and protect them



A complete summary of the workshops will be posted to the project website (<http://www.sustainableberkshires.org>) which will be launched in September. Visit the website to join our e-mail list to receive project updates or join our Facebook page by searching "Sustainable Berkshires" and hitting "Like" where we'll also post updates and announcements.

Stay tuned this fall for additional meetings in the following topics areas:

- Historic Preservation Forums (Late September)
- Natural and Recreation Resource Forums (October)
- Economic Development Forums (November)

Meeting dates and locations will be announced as they are set. We hope to see you there!

STAFF CONTACT: Amy Kacala at akacala@berkshireplanning.org or ext. 29.



RSVP FOR THE BRPC 45TH ANNUAL DINNER

To RSVP please remove the following to fill out and mail to BRPC:

The Annual Dinner will be held Thursday September 22, 2011 at the Pittsfield Country Club (639 South Street in Pittsfield, MA). A Social Hour with cash bar will begin at 5:30 PM and dinner (buffet style) will be served at 6:30 PM. Stephen Sheppard, a Professor of Economics at Williams College will be joining us as the special guest speaker. The discussion will focus around the role of non-profits in the larger innovative economy.

Two Charles Kusik Awards will be given during the evening. The first will be awarded to Daniel E. Bosley for his contributions at the state level in advancing economic development initiatives. The second award will be presented to Donald Goranson for his contributions during his thirty years of service on the Great Barrington Planning Board.

Reservations and payment **MUST** be received by Tuesday September 6th!

| Name | Title | Organization |
|------|-------|--------------|
| | | |
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| | | |

Cost is \$25.00 per person

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please mail payment in advance to:
 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
 1 Fenn Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA 01201
 (Please make checks out to BRPC)

STAFF CONTACT: Judy Wagner at jwagner@berkshireplanning.org or ext. 10.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

STORMWATER SEMINAR: THURSDAY OCTOBER 20, 2011

Staff from VHB Engineering will conduct a free, focused stormwater management seminar at the BRPC offices Thursday October 20th. Topics include Retrofitting for Low Impact Development, Infiltration Design for Cold Climates and Bioretention Engineering. Target audiences are engineering/design firms, developers and local planning boards and conservation commissions. Registration at 5:30 p.m. with the workshop beginning at 6:00 p.m.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

U.S. DOT TIGER III GRANTS

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program provides an opportunity to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects in an effort to achieve national objectives. Pre-applications must be submitted by October 3, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. with final applications submitted by October 31, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. Visit <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/> for more info.

FEMA 2012 HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued guidance and applications for the 2012 Hazard Mitigation Assistance unified program. Focus areas include pre-disaster mitigation, flood mitigation assistance, severe repetitive loss and post-disaster hazard mitigation. Applications are due November 4, 2011. More information is available at <http://www.mass.gov/mema>.

FY12 PEER-TO-PEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

There is grant money available by the Department of Housing and Community Development to Massachusetts CDBG Non-Entitlement communities to hire a colleague from another community with the expertise to address a development problem or issue. Up to \$1,000 in consulting services will be awarded. For more information contact David Haynes at (617) 573-1336 or David.Haynes@state.ma.us.

MASSWORKS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

This is the one-stop shop for public entities seeking public infrastructure improvements to support economic development. Applications must be submitted before the end of September 9, 2011. Visit at <http://www.mass.gov/eohed/infrastructure> for more information.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANTS AVAILABLE

Provides grants for a variety of projects including trail construction, stewardship and trail protection. All public agencies are eligible to apply. The application dead-line is October 1, 2011. Visit <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/greenway/regionalGrants.htm> for more information.

CALENDAR

All meetings held in BRPC office unless otherwise noted. Please check the BRPC website to confirm the meetings.

SEPTEMBER

- 5 **Labor Day**, Offices Closed
- 7 **Berkshire Conservation Commission Group Meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 **Regional Issues Committee Meeting**, 4:00 p.m.
- 15 **New Delegates & Alternates Training**, 5:30 p.m.
- Full Commission Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 **TAC Meeting**, 4:00 p.m.
- 22 **BRPC Annual Dinner**, 5:30 p.m. at the Pittsfield Country Club
- 27 **MPO Meeting**, 4:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 5 **Berkshire Conservation Commission Group Meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 **Executive Committee Meeting**, 4:00 p.m.
- 7 **Renovations**, Offices Closed
- 10 **Columbus Day**, Offices Closed
- 14 **Renovations**, Offices Closed
- 18 **TAC Meeting**, 4:00 p.m.
- 20 **BRPC Storm Water Workshop**, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 **Renovations**, Offices Closed
- 25 **MPO Meeting**, 4:00 p.m.
- 28 **Renovations**, Offices Closed

CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS

None at this time.